

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording the reproduced information ~~as a~~ as the second hologram in the same position on the optical recording medium as the predetermined position ~~from-in~~ which the ~~information was reproduced~~ first hologram is recorded.
- 2-3. (Canceled)
4. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes ~~recording position information~~ recording position information representing ~~a-the~~ position in which ~~information has been recorded~~ the second hologram is recorded, with the reproduced information, in the second hologram.
5. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein when re-recording the reproduced information ~~as a~~ as the second hologram in the same position on the optical recording medium as the predetermined position ~~from-in~~ which the ~~information was reproduced~~ first hologram is recorded, the reproduced information is re-recorded and retained so as to cause an intensity of a reconstructed beam to have a value that can be detected.
6. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the reconstructed beam diffracted from the first hologram ~~when reproducing the information~~ has a first polarization state, and further comprising, when subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information as the second hologram, changing a polarization state of a recording beam ~~to a second polarization state~~, so that the first

polarization state is different from ~~the~~a second polarization state of a reconstructed beam obtained from the second hologram following the re-recording.

7. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the optical recording medium comprises a photorefractive material, a photochromic material or a polarization sensitive material.

8. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 1, wherein the optical recording medium comprises polyester having an azobenzene frame in its side chain.

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording and retaining the reproduced information ~~as a~~as the second hologram in a position on the optical recording medium different from the predetermined position ~~from~~in which the ~~information was reproduced~~first hologram is re-recorded.

10-11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the subsequent reproducing and retaining includes recording position information representing ~~a~~the position in which information has been recorded the second hologram is recorded, with the reproduced information, in the second hologram.

13. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the optical recording medium comprises a photorefractive material, a photochromic material or a polarization sensitive material.

14. (Original) A hologram retention method according to claim 9, wherein the optical recording medium comprises polyester having an azobenzene frame in its side chain.

15. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) The method according to claim 21, further ~~comprising the steps of~~comprising:

dividing information of a file unit in a signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in an optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block;

reproducing the information of the file unit; and

subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced file so as to re-divide the reproduced file into a smaller number of blocks.

16. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, ~~comprising the steps of:~~comprising:

applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam, and thereby changing a recording angle; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

17. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, ~~comprising the steps of:~~comprising:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while relatively moving at least one of the signal beam and the reference beam, and the optical recording medium, and thereby changing a recording position; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

18. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, ~~comprising the steps of:~~comprising:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing a wavelength of the reference beam and the signal beam; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

19. (Withdrawn-Currently Amended) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

making an angle formed by the signal beam and the reference beam constant, applying a signal beam and a reference beam simultaneously to the optical recording medium while changing a phase of the reference beam; and

dividing information of a file unit in the signal beam into a plurality of blocks, and multiplexing the information in the optical recording medium as holograms of a plurality of pages every block.

20. (Withdrawn) A hologram retention method according to claim 15, wherein when re-recording a reproduced file, position information representing a position in which the file has been re-recorded is also recorded.

21. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method ~~comprising the steps of:~~ comprising:

reproducing information recorded as a first hologram in a predetermined position of an optical recording medium by irradiating a beam ~~onto the hologram;~~

receiving a reconstructed beam diffracted from the first hologram;

determining whether an intensity of the reconstructed beam has decreased to a predetermined value or less; and

subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information obtained from the reconstructed beam as a second hologram in the optical recording medium, without changing the reproduced information, when the intensity of the reconstructed beam has decreased to the predetermined value or less.

22. (Currently Amended) A hologram retention method ~~comprising the steps of:~~  
comprising:

reproducing information recorded as a first hologram in a predetermined position of an optical recording medium;

receiving a reconstructed beam diffracted from the first hologram;

determining whether the number of times of reproduction of the information from the predetermined position has exceeded a predetermined value; and

subsequently re-recording and retaining the reproduced information obtained from the reconstructed beam as a second hologram in the optical recording medium, without changing the reproduced information, when the number of times of reproduction has exceeded the predetermined value.

23. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording the reproduced information ~~as a~~  
as the second hologram in the same position on the optical recording medium as the predetermined position ~~from in~~ which the ~~information was reproduced~~first hologram is  
recorded.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 22, wherein the subsequent re-recording and retaining includes re-recording and retaining the reproduced information ~~as a~~  
as the second hologram in a position on the optical recording medium different from the predetermined position ~~from in~~ which the ~~information was reproduced~~first  
hologram is recorded.